

**2015 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Members**

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Sen. John Pinto, Co-Chair  
Sen. Ted Barela  
Rep. Zachary J. Cook  
Rep. Yvette Herrell  
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Sen. Nancy Rodriguez  
Sen. John C. Ryan  
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.  
Rep. James E. Smith  
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**Advisory Members**

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Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros  
Sen. Stuart Ingle  
Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Sen. Cisco McSorley

Sen. George K. Munoz  
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Rep. Nick L. Salazar  
Sen. Clemente Sanchez

**Work Plan**

The New Mexico Legislative Council created the Indian Affairs Committee (IAC) on April 27, 2015. The IAC addresses issues and policies that affect Native Americans in New Mexico. In view of the fact that the IAC aims to address issues and policies relating principally to New Mexico's Native American population, the IAC strives to conduct its meetings in locations that are accessible to the state's tribal members and their leaders. Moreover, meeting at the various Indian nations, tribes and pueblos in New Mexico facilitates government-to-government cooperation. The IAC meetings are essential to the work of the legislature in addressing the issues affecting this segment of its constituency.

The IAC proposes to explore and discuss the topics in each major issue area affecting Native Americans during the 2015 interim as follows:

**A. State-Tribal Relations:**

1. receive a report from the Department of Finance and Administration regarding how it interacts with and provides services to native communities, and how that can be improved; and
2. receive updates from the Native American liaisons or the similarly tasked individuals from state executive agencies to assess outreach efforts, challenges and successes;

B. Health:

1. receive a report on the impact of uranium mining and clean-up activities in the Grants mineral belt; and
2. examine issues surrounding the curtailing of operations at the Navajo Generating Station;

C. Development in Indian Country:

1. discuss capital outlay concerns and evaluate requests for capital outlay by tribal communities;
2. review transportation issues, including railroad crossings and road projects;
3. identify what help is available to those interested in starting a new business in Indian country;
4. receive a report from the Legislative Finance Committee and a task force requested to study New Mexico's consumer lending industry and state regulation of lending practices, including the impact on Native Americans;
5. consider the feasibility of an inland port near the Navajo chapters of Manuelito, Tsa-Ya-Toh and Rock Springs and receive an update on the Thoreau railhead;
6. discuss drilling on sacred sites in and around the Huerfano Chapter of the Navajo Nation, including Chaco Canyon, allottees, the checkerboard and the Bureau of Land Management;
7. consider opportunities for assistance and funding from the federal government;
8. discuss Indian gaming issues; and
9. receive a report on power lines on tribal land;

D. Education:

1. receive a report on the successes, challenges and opportunities for Native American student achievement;

2. review Native American study programs, initiatives and resources at state higher education institutions and tribal colleges;
3. receive an update on charter school education in Indian country; and
4. receive an update on school funding, federal and state impact aid and ongoing lawsuits; and

E. Annual Reports from Executive Agencies:

1. receive a report from the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission regarding:
  - a. the status of proposed Indian water rights settlements requiring state financing;
  - b. the distribution of funds from the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund to implement approved settlements; and
  - c. recommendations on the level of funding for the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund necessary to timely implement Indian water rights;
2. receive a report from the Indian Affairs Department regarding the compiled reports from all state agencies on activities pursuant to the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, including information on policies, plans, contact individuals, training and programs and services from each agency; and
3. receive a report from the Tribal Infrastructure Board regarding the total expenditures from the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund for the previous fiscal year, the purposes for which expenditures were made, an analysis of the progress of the projects funded and proposals for legislative action in the subsequent legislative session.

**Indian Affairs Committee  
2015 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 15	Room 322, State Capitol, Santa Fe
July 20-21	Pueblo of Taos; Dulce
August 20-21	Navajo Technical University, Crownpoint; University of New Mexico-Gallup
September 30, October 1-2	Diné College, Shiprock; Mitten Rock; Huerfano
October 5	Kewa Pueblo, Joint Meeting with the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
October 26-27	Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque; Pueblo of San Felipe
November 9-10	Santa Fe Indian School; State Capitol, Santa Fe